

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2003

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on December 8, 2003 in Room 830 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Jernigan called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., followed by introductions. The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Jernigan
Commissioner Cooperman
Commissioner Davalos
Commissioner Mummey
Commissioner Perkins
Commissioner Rodriguez

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- She thanked Commissioners and staff for the support they provided throughout the year, and wished them a safe and happy holiday season.
- She reported that, after an appeal from Congress, African-American Army Specialist Shoshanna Johnson was awarded a 60 percent disability benefit and a medical discharge from her military duties in Iraq. Johnson was wounded in the same battle as her comrade, Jessica Lynch. Lynch was discharged as a private first class in August 2003 with an 80 percent disability benefit, while Johnson was set to receive a 30 percent disability benefit before the Congressional appeal.
- She announced that due to the ongoing supermarket strikes, Commissioner Lewis, an employee of Albertson's Market, is unable to serve as chair of the 19th Annual Women of the Year Awards Luncheon Committee. Commissioner Carpenter-McMillan graciously accepted the appointment as Chair of the Luncheon Committee. The membership of the Luncheon Committee remains in place since the appointments of November 24, 2003.
- The deadline for nominations for the Women of the Year was extended to January 8, 2004.
- The Commission will meet with Ms. Ga-Ma, Chairperson of the Women's Federation of Tibet, People's Republic of China, on December 18, 2003, at 10 a.m., in Room 383 of the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors.

PRESENTATION BY MARGARET QUINN, LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Ms. Quinn discussed the following:

- In June 2002, the First Supervisorial District requested the Departments of Public Social Services (DPSS) and Mental Health (DMH), and the Los Angeles Homeless

- Services Authority (LAHSA) to conduct a six-month pilot project in the Skid Row area designed to move homeless families into permanent housing.
- The target population was homeless families residing in the Skid Row area; at least one family member had to have a mental health issue.
- LAHSA's role was to find 25-30 homeless families to participate in the project, provide transportation, intervention and crisis counseling.
- DPSS' role was to take CalWORKs applications and connect families with public benefits.
- DMH had lead responsibility for the families' case management needs (arranging for emergency shelter, etc.).
- A multi-disciplinary team of all case managers met weekly to discuss/evaluate the families' progress.
- Despite the barriers, the pilot was successful because all of the families were off Skid Row by Christmas 2002.
- Some families found employment, and the well-being of all the families was improved.
- Despite the success of this project, Los Angeles County needs much more transitional and affordable housing for its low-income families.
- Additional funding is needed to increase family homeless services on Skid Row.
- With additional funding, LAHSA could provide additional staff and services in the downtown area, including counseling, crisis intervention, transportation, emergency housing, and a respite center for women and children.

After a question and answer period, President Jernigan thanked Ms. Quinn for her presentation.

On motion of Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Mummey, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved a \$500 donation to the First District/DPSS Homeless Pilot Project. President Jernigan matched the Commission's \$500 contribution to be allocated from the President's fund.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24, 2003

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Cooperman, and unanimously carried, the minutes of November 24, 2003, were approved.

CONSIDER SUPPORT OF A WOMEN'S HISTORY WEEK PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT AT THE LONG BEACH MUSEUM OF ART BY SENDING EXHIBIT ADVERTISEMENT IN COMMISSION MAILINGS

On motion of Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Mummey, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to support a Women's History Week

Photographic Exhibit at the Long Beach Museum of Art by sending advertisements in the Commission mailings.

DISCUSSION OF THE ADDITION OF A YOUTH MEMBER TO THE COMMISSION

Staff reported that, in August 1997, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council's recommendation that one youth member, aged 16-24, be appointed to all County commissions, councils, task forces, etc. that address issues affecting youth. In order for the Commission to comply with the Board's order, the Ordinance of the Commission must be revised to allow for an additional member.

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

Vice President Mariajimenez submitted to staff, via telephone, her recommendation to change the Commission meeting schedule to the following: The first meeting of the month be designated as a regular, full business meeting, and the second meeting of the month be designated as a subcommittee working period from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and then a full commission meeting from 11 a.m. to 12 noon to hear subcommittee reports, recommendations, and to conduct regular Commission business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Domestic Violence Subcommittee

Commissioner Rodriguez passed out information about the Lifetime Television documentary *Until the Violence Stops*, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. The program will air on February 17, 2004.

Older Women's Issues Committee

Commissioner Mummey announced that plans are underway for another community conference, scheduled for early summer, which targets issues of importance to mid-life and older women.

Awards Luncheon Subcommittee

Commissioner Carpenter-McMillan reported that the Awards Luncheon subcommittee will meet on December 18, 2003 at 11 a.m. in Room 383 of the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Ruth Jernigan, President
Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Susan Carpenter-McMillan
Roslyn Cooperman
Karin Davalos
Janet Mummey
Barbara Perkins
Olivia Rodriguez

EXCUSED

Yvonne Mariajimenez, Vice President
Charlotte Lesser, Treasurer
Ruth Creary, Ph.D.
Reiko Duba
Lila Morgan
Bonnie J. Lewis

UNEXCUSED

Sophia Esparza

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Louisa Ollague, First District
Margaret Quinn, DPSS
Khanh Nguyen, Executive Office
Jim Corbett, Executive Office
Twila Kerr, Executive Office
Cheryl Diaz, Executive Office
Audra Galang, Executive Office